

# Start Soaring Higher: How Tos of Family Engagement in Learning

Presented by  
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Family Friendly Schools



# Favorite Quotes

- “If we teach today the way we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.”

John Dewey

- Albert Einstein gave us this definition of insanity: “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”



# For Different Results: Engage your Families

- Engagement vs Involvement



# Four Domains of Family Engagement

- Domain 1 - Welcoming Environment
- Domain 2 - Two-Way Communication
- Domain 3 - Degree of Engagement
- Domain 4 - Support for Learning at Home



# Welcoming Environment

- (By the Way: They're just as afraid to come to school and talk with you as you are to have them come to school)
- Ideas for a Welcoming Environment
  - Coffee breaks at school or home
  - Tuesday Tours
  - Lunch with your kids once a month
  - What would you do to get to know a new neighbor? How would you build a relationship
  - What else?



# Two-Way Communication

- Ideas for Two– Way Communication
  - Coffee breaks
  - Home visits
  - Emails
  - Phone home
  - My rule of thumb: 10 to 1
  - What else?



# Degree of Engagement

- Parent Policy Council/PTA great first steps
- “*Beyond the Bake Sale*” / “*Parent Connection*” / “*101 Real Ways*” activities
- Ideas for Engaging more families
  - Projects
  - Projects
  - Did I mention projects?
  - What can we do better questions?
  - What else?



# Support for Learning at Home

- Involvement in the academic lives of kids
- Connect the learning to Common Core Standards because it's what we teach and test
- Model what you want/show parents how



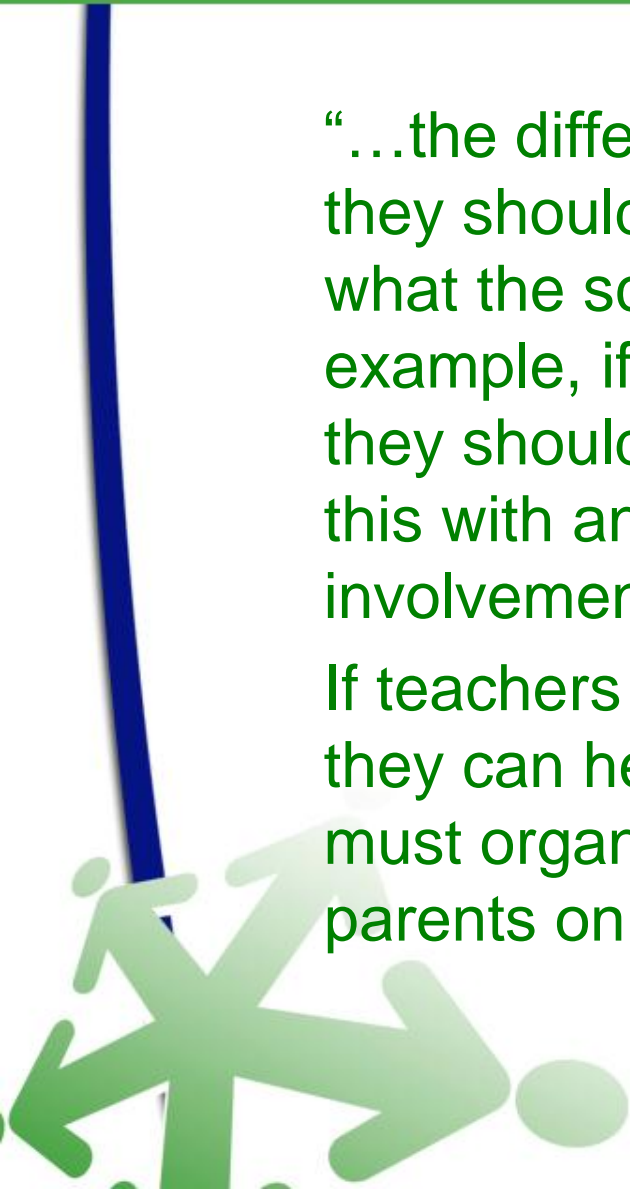


# We Need to Show Parents How

“...the differences in whether parents believe they should help or can help are shaped by what the school and the teachers do. For example, if teachers want parents to think that they should help, teachers must demonstrate this with an active program of parent involvement in learning activities at home.

If teachers want parents to feel confident that they can help, teachers and administrators must organize and conduct workshops for parents on how to help.”

Epstein



# Parent Playbook Activities: Grades K-2

## Parent/Child activities matched to Common Core Standards

- Word Hunt–1st ELA standard (k-2 p. 25)
- War–Kdg Math (K-2 p. 61)



## Common State Standards:

- Electric Hair–2 Science (K-2 p. 95)
- Family History–1<sup>st</sup> History/Soc Studies  
(K-2 p. 123)



# Parent Playbook Activities: Grades 3-5

## Parent/Child activities matched to Common Core Standards

- Bake a Cake—3<sup>rd</sup> ELA (3–5 p. 9)
- Kitchen measuring—3<sup>rd</sup> (3–5 p.63)



## Common State Standards:

- Seed Study—4<sup>th</sup> Science (3–5 p. 94)
- Historic Letter—5<sup>th</sup> Social Studies (3–5 p.126)

# Parent Playbook Activities: Grades 6-8

## Parent/Child activities matched to Common Core Standards

- Trip Journal—6<sup>th</sup> ELA (6–8 p. 12)
- Math on Wheels—7<sup>th</sup> Math (6–8 p. 68)

### Common State Standards:

- Oil and Water—8<sup>th</sup> Science (6–8 p. 96)
- Muslim Rule—7<sup>th</sup> History/Soc Studies  
(6–8 p. 126)

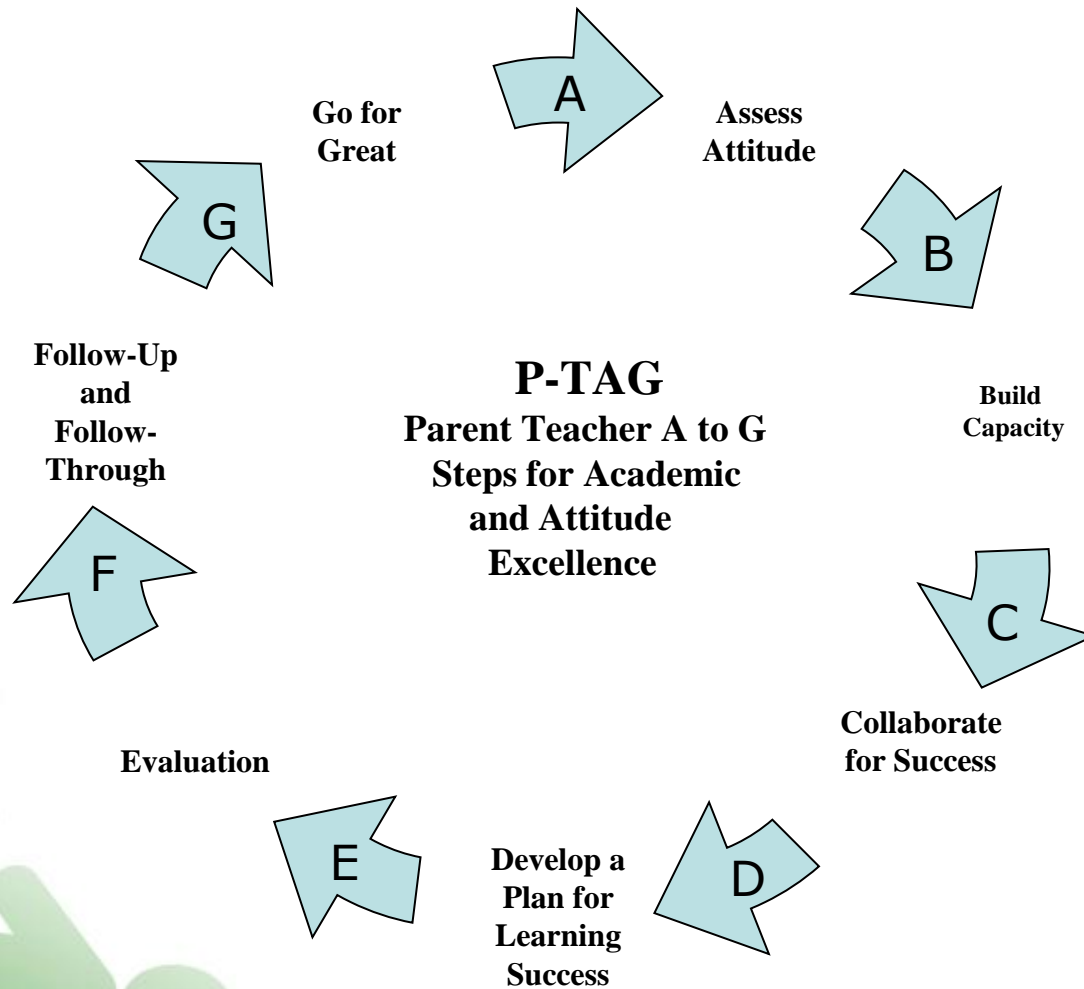


# Learning IS Engaging

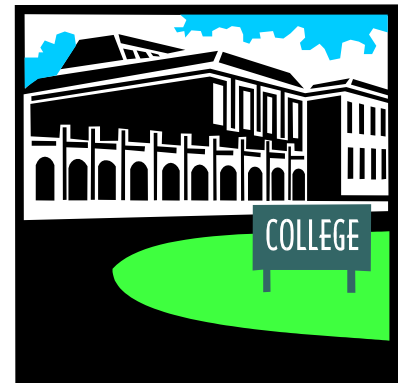
- ✓ Envisioning a New Idea
- ✓ Creative Thought
- ✓ Results in a New Experience



# P-TAG Overview: A Process for Changing Thinking



# “G”: Clarkrange HS



# “G” Go for Great: St. Hope Results

API Year	API Score	Involvement %
2003-2004	638	70%
2004-2005	737	88%
2005-2006	744	94%
2006-2007	749	*
2007-2008	802	98%

Academic rigor + Parent involvement = Student Achievement





# Results for 2008-9 and 2009-10

- API Score

875



915



# P-TAG Planning for Family Engagement in Domain 4

- Pick a sample school for this process

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Walk through the planning steps with me in the school of your choice for Support for Learning at Home



# P-TAG Overview



# What Could the Results Be in the School Community of Your Choice?



- “Love life, engage in it, give it all you’ve got. Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it.”

– Maya Angelou



# Thank You for Today

- Dr. Joni Samples' materials/workshops are available through:
  - [www.familyfriendlyschools.com](http://www.familyfriendlyschools.com)
  - [drjoni@edsuccess.com](mailto:drjoni@edsuccess.com)
  - Contact FFS for more information on our monthly National Conversations on Family Engagement

